



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

White Mountain
National Forest

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File Code: 2580

Date: April 9, 2012

Glenn Keith
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Waste Prevention
One Winter Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Keith:

In February 2012, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts posted a notice seeking public comment on Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) proposed Revision to the Massachusetts Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (RH SIP). The MassDEP Revision proposed to amend the December 30, 2011 RH SIP to address Best Available Retrofit Technology requirements and other emission reduction commitments for electric generating units (EGUs). In particular, MassDEP proposes a different alternative to BART for EGUs.

This letter acknowledges that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, has reviewed your proposed Revision. The Forest Service's participation in Massachusetts' administrative process does not waive any legal defenses or sovereignty rights it may have under the laws of the United States, including the Clean Air Act and its implementing regulations. Only the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can make a final determination about the document's completeness, and therefore, only the EPA has the ability to approve the document.

From the perspective of a Federal Land Manager, who has an affirmative responsibility to protect the air quality related values in federal Class I areas, we are encouraged that a number of significant steps are being taken to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions. Some of these steps include the retirement of Somerset Power Unit 8 in 2010, the proposed retirement of Salem Harbor Units 3 and 4 in 2014, and MassDEP's proposed amendments to its low sulfur fuel oil regulation (which would require EGUs that burn residual oil to limit the sulfur content to 0.5% by weight beginning July 1, 2014). We also acknowledge your proposal to review EGU emissions in 2013, with the intent of a 90% reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions from EGUs from 2002 levels by 2018.

We appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Forest Service compliments you on your hard work and dedication to significant improvement in our nation's air quality values and visibility. I look forward to your response required by 40 CFR 51.308(i)(3). For further information, please contact Ralph Perron, Air Quality Specialist, at (802) 222-1444.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas G. Wagner
THOMAS G. WAGNER
Forest Supervisor

cc: Ann Acheson



Bret A Anderson
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